

***** news release

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

For Release to PM's, SEPTEMBER 28, 1961

SECRETARY UDALL SPEAKS AT DEDICATION OF ATLANTIC MARINE
GAME FISH RESEARCH CENTER

Secretary of the Interior Stewart L. Udall and Senator Harrison A.

Williams, Jr., of New Jersey, today dedicated the new Atlantic Marine Game Fish Research Center, established by the Department of the Interior to study the biological problems of America's fastest growing sport fishery.

Located at Sandy Hook, New Jersey, the Research Center was a former base hospital at Fort Hancock, and was made available for the new activity by the Department of the Army.

Secretary Udall said at the dedication:

"It is clear that the oceans are both our new frontier and our last frontier from the standpoint of recreational fishing. The pace of development in this country is rapid. By the year 2000, there may well be 330 million people, an increased concentration in metropolitan areas, more money to spend, more leisure, and better travel facilities.

"All of this points to a tremendous increase in the demands upon our natural resources including marine fishes and the waters in which they live. Often these demands are of a conflicting or competing nature. There can be no doubt, however, that outdoor recreation, including fishing, has become one of the large industries of the country and will continue to outstrip our population growth.

"The advancement of science and conservation in the field of marine fishes will be needed to keep pace with this demand. The task is so large that there is far more than all of us can do. Duplication of effort would be wasteful and we should be seeking every means to cooperate and coordinate our activities, especially in research.

"Our program is conceived to accomplish this. It will focus upon basic, long-term research in an effort to provide new knowledge and better

understanding of marine fishes for those who are responsible for the management of this resource. In addition, we believe that the Federal role in this field carries additional responsibilities for defining the national dimensions of this resource and for developing methods to assess it periodically; to stimulate the recruitment and training of marine fishery biologists; and to assist in the problem of scientific communication which threatens to inundate us."

Director of the new Research Center is Dr. Lionel Walford, formerly head of the Washington Laboratory of the Bureau of Commercial Fisheries of the Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior.

Those attending today's dedication included Senators, Members of Congress, scientists from colleges and research institutions, representatives of conservation and sportmen's organizations, State and local officials, and representatives of skin-diver organizations which have been doing considerable volunteer work for the new research program.

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